



# Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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## **SACRAMENTO MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS' PROBATION FOR TRYING TO SHUT DOWN CALIFORNIA POWER GRID**

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that LONNIE CHARLES DENISON, 33, of Sacramento, California, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. to six months home confinement and five years' probation for damaging an energy facility. He also was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$34,163 to California Systems Operator Corporation (CAL-ISO). California Independent Systems Operator Corporation is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation charged with operating the majority of California's high voltage wholesale power grid. DENISON was a contract computer technician at CAL-ISO on the date of the incident, April 15, 2007.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, the government argued for six months in prison. However, the court concurred with the recommendation of the United States Probation Office that DENISON should be sentenced to home confinement instead of imprisonment. Judge Burrell noted the positive steps taken by the defendant since his arrest in April 2007, including maintaining his sobriety and seeking mental health treatment and counseling. He further noted that the lengthy period of probation that would

permit the court to monitor DENISON's activities. Under the conditions of probation, the defendant will be required to participate in drug treatment and mental-health counseling, be subject to random drug testing, and have no contact with CAL-ISO facilities or its employees.

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